



## **RCP POST PRIDEFEST FAQ**

As a Board and an organization, our efforts throughout this past year have focused on widening our reach, walking the talk of inclusivity, and not only celebrating but doing the work required to bring about positive change. The all-volunteer Board at Rocket City Pride has worked long and hard for many months, and our necessary work continues.

### **WERE ORGANIZATIONS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN PRIDEFEST?**

No. No one organization, business, or entity was invited to participate in Pridefest. RCP placed a vendor application online, and participation was first come, first served. There has never been a formal process for accepting or denying vendors, including voter engagement or political organizations. Rocket City Pride is reevaluating this process for future events and will do so while adhering to our mission, vision, and bylaws.

### **WERE PRIDEFEST DECISIONS UNIFIED?**

Yes. There was a call from some community members to rescind a particular group's application and bar them from attending. With consultation and guidance from other LGBTQIA+ organizations, we determined the best path forward, based on our 501(c)3 status, was to hold all political organizations who applied to the same day-of standards. We unanimously determined that we would audit each organization throughout the day to ensure the safety of attendees. Again, Rocket City Pride is reevaluating this process for future events and will do so while adhering to our mission, vision, and bylaws.

### **WAS PRIDEFEST PEACEFUL?**

Yes. We had a peaceful, positive event. There were no unsafe incidents or protests on site. Pridefest attendees represented the diverse array of identities that make up the queer community, including members of the trans community. We had one of our most well-attended Pridefests in history.

### **IS RCP SUPPORTING THE TRANS COMMUNITY?**

Yes. RCP strongly believes that trans lives matter and trans rights are human rights. RCP has made continual efforts to be not only inclusive of the trans community, but to elevate their voices and highlight their experiences. RCP was a co-sponsor of the first TransPride Festival in Huntsville in 2021. We have had an ongoing relationship with local and regional trans-led organizations for several years. We also realize other organizations have a more direct connection to the community and their experiences. When needed, we refer inquiries related to additional resources, support, and education surrounding topics of trans experience to these partner organizations, who have additional expertise. We will continue to speak up and advocate for our trans community members.

### **ARE THERE ANY TRANS FOLKS ON THE RCP BOARD?**

No. There have been people who identify as transgender on the board in the past. With every board opening, Rocket City Pride has extended the application and interview process to the entire community. We have also extended an open invitation to folks to join our auxiliary committees to ensure broader participation, input, and advice from the community at large.

### **ARE THE RCP BYLAWS PUBLIC?**

Yes. The RCP Bylaws can be found on our [website](#).

### **IS RCP IN GOOD 501(c)3 STANDING?**

Yes. Our 501(c) 3 is in good standing and all financial obligations (taxes and otherwise) are as well.

### **WERE REFUNDS ISSUED FOR VENDORS WHO DID NOT PARTICIPATE?**

Yes. Vendors who notified RCP they would no longer be participating before October 13th have been granted a refund for their vendor application fees.